



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
GCIV-520	Journey through Greek History	10
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
None	Languages and Literature	Fall/Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Required	Greek Civilization	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
2 nd Cycle	Dr. Marios Hatzopoulos	
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Distance Learning	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Enable the students to acquire a general and intertemporal view of Greek history.
- Make them able to evaluate the importance of great historical figures to the process of history-making.
- Give them the historical tools to interpret the ways of interchange between ideas and material conditions.
- Impress upon them the great impact of political factors, i.e. the power of Rome since 2nd century BC and religious ones, i.e. Christianity since 4th century AD upon the history of Hellenism.
- Enable them to understand the interdependence of politics and economy in the frame of Greek history.
- Make them understand that women were not always pathetic agents by including a sufficient number of female historical figures either in co-ordination with a male or on their own.
- Enable the students to evaluate the ways of historical change, i.e. how it became possible for Christianity to become Rome's state religion after almost three hundred years of persecution.
- Make them understand that Greek civilization kept on being transformed during its long historical continuity.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Have created a mental outline of Greek history and civilization from the 7th century BC to 19th century AD.
2. Have been familiarized with some of the most important historical figures of Greek history.
3. Have come to terms with the watersheds of Greek history.
4. Set up a frame of the continuity of the idea of Hellenism from antiquity to late 19th century.

Course Content:

The course “GCIV 520 – Journey through Greek history: great historical figures from antiquity to the late nineteenth century” hopes to cover the trends in history via the use of parallels and of using again after a large period of bias, the method of considering great historical personalities as creators of historical events, always in interaction with the people as a whole and the specific historical circumstances of their era: Following the new wave of shedding light to the role of women in history, several units of the course are focused on strong female historical figures.

1. The archaic period (750-489 BC): Solon the great lawgiver, statesman and poet in 6th c. BC Athens. Alcaeus and Sappho: the spokesmen of aristocracy in archaic Lesbos and sexual politics in the service of class-war.
2. The emergence of democracy in Athens: Ephialtes and Cleisthenes: founders of Athenian democracy. Cimon and Pericles: leaders of the great political factions of 5th c. BC Athens.
3. The unification of the Greek world and the Oikumene: Alexander the Great (332-323 BC).
4. Struggling to keep autonomy in a world threatened by Rome: Philopoemen, the great conservative leader of the Achaean League in the 2nd c. BC. Last of the Lagids: Cleopatra the 7th in Egypt (1st c. BC).
5. The emergence of a Christianized world: Constantine the Great and his mother St Helena (4th c. AD).
6. Last images of paganism: Julian the Apostate (361-363 AD). Hypatia the Alexandrian philosopher and mathematician (5th c. AD).
7. The codification of Roman law and the short-lived re-unification of the Eastern and Western parts of the Roman Empire: Justinian and his wife, Theodora, (6th c. AD). The Holy War for the control of the Holy Land and the adoption of the Greek language as the official language of the Byzantine Empire: Heraclius (7th c. AD).
8. Iconoclasm and the Arab threat: Leon the 3rd, the emperor who started Iconoclasm and tried to abolish the institution of monasticism. Irene the Athenian and Theodora, the widowed Empresses, who as regents restored the veneration of the holy icons in Byzantium (8th-9th c. AD).
9. Decline and renewal: Basil the 2nd, the warrior emperor who crushed the Bulgarian expansion (11th c. AD). Alexios Comnenos, the emperor who was a victor in war but lost in the field of

- economy. Anna Comnena, the princess who would become a king but ended up as a reluctant Historian (11th-12th c. AD).
10. Ioannis Vatatzis: the 1st emperor who used the name Hellenes for his subjects in his edicts and the one who paved the way for the liberation of Constantinople by the Franks, 13th c. AD. The fall of Byzantium: Constantine Palaelogos, Last Byzantine emperor (1449-1453).
 11. Keeping the Christian faith alive: St Philothea, the nun who defended women and slaves in 16th c AD Turkish occupied Athens. Kosmas of Aetolia, the monk who defended Greek language and the Orthodox faith in 18th c. AD Turkish occupied Greece. General Macrygiannis, hero of the War of Independence (1821-1829) and defender of Greek historical heritage.
 12. Count Ioannis Kapodistrias: the great diplomat who became the architect of the Modern Greek state. Charilaos Trikoupis: 1st of the modernizers of Greek politics and economy (late 19th c. AD).

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, on-line interaction, assigned readings, videos.

Assessment Methods:

Weekly interactive exercises and activities
Final Assessment, in week 14-16

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
<i>Ancient Greece: A Political, Social and Cultural history</i>	Sarah B. Pomeroy, Walter Donlan, Stanley Mayer Burstein, Jennifer Tolbert Roberts	Oxford University Press	1999	0195097432
<i>A history of Byzantium</i>	Timothy E. Gregory	Wiley-Blackwell	2009	978-1-405-18471-7
<i>Modern Greece: A short history</i>	C.M. Woodhouse	Faber and Faber	1999	0571197949
<i>The Black hunter: Forms</i>	P. Vidal-Naquet	John Hopkins	1983	0-8018-3251-9

<i>of thought and Forms of society in the Greek world</i>		University Press		
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Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
<i>A companion to Archaic Greece</i>	Kurt A. Raaflaub, Hans van Wees (eds)	Blackwell	2009	9780631230458
<i>Late Antiquity</i>	Peter Brown	Harvard University Press	1998	0-674-5117-0
<i>Ioannis A. Kapodistrias: The European diplomat and statesman of the 19th century Greece. Roxandra Stourdza: A famous woman of her time.</i>	Helen E. Koukou	The Society for the Study of Greek History	2001	960-8177-06-3